



**Pokégnek Bodéwadmik • Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Tribal Council**

P.O. Box 180 • 58620 Sink Road • Dowagiac, MI 49047 • www.PokagonBand-nsn.gov
(269) 782-6323 • (888) 376-9988 toll free • (269) 782-9625 fax

February 8, 2016

Michigan House of Representatives
Natural Resources Committee
Chairperson Andrea LaFontaine
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

RE: Support of House Bill 5255

Dear Chairperson LaFontaine:

On behalf of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians ("Pokagon Band"), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5255 ("Bill 5255"). If approved, Bill 5255 would prohibit any net pen aquaculture facility within the Great Lakes or its connecting waters.

The Pokagon Band is a sovereign, federally recognized Indian tribe that has resided within the Great Lakes area since time immemorial. As a sovereign nation, the Pokagon Band has an obligation to protect its homeland and to conserve and develop the natural resources within, not only for the existing generation of citizens, but for the next seven generations. The Pokagon Band has a shared interest with the State of Michigan and the eleven other federally recognized Indian tribes in Michigan in ensuring the quality of water within the State of Michigan.

Net pen aquaculture will pollute the Great Lakes by increasing the levels of effluent in the water. Net pen aquaculture increases the risk of disease and will be harmful to existing fish. Net pen aquaculture poses a threat to the water quality of the Great Lakes and the fish within the Great Lakes.

Bill 5255 will prevent those threats and help to protect and preserve the water quality of the Great Lakes. Therefore, the Pokagon Band supports Bill 5255 and encourages its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W".

John P. Warren
Tribal Council Chairman
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians